Amendments to the Specification:

On page one of the application, on a line below the Title of the Invention, insert the following:

Related Application Information

This application is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 09/620,311, filed July 20, 2000, which is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 08/981,159, filed November 10, 1997 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,541,010), which is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT Application No. PCT/US96/07454, filed on May 21, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Application Serial No. 08/448,630, filed on May 23, 1995 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,792,462); the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

United States Application Serial No. 09/620,311 is also a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Application Serial No. 09/598,569, filed June 21, 2000 (issued as United States Patent No. 6,531,135), which is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 09/122,286, filed on July 24, 1998 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,156,558), which is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 08/448,630, filed on May 23, 1995 (issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,792,462); the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

On page 1, following the Related Application Information and before the Field of the Invention, please insert the following:

Statement of Federal Support

> This invention was made with federal support under Grant numbers DAMD17-91-C-1092 and 9113-ARG-0610 from the Department of the Army. The government has certain rights to this invention.

Please replace the indicated paragraphs below from the specification with the following rewritten paragraphs. Deleted material is indicated by strike-through and new material is indicated by underlining.

At page 2, lines 9-23:

The study of these viruses has led to the development of beneficial techniques for vaccinating against the alphavirus diseases, and other diseases through the use of alphavirus vectors for the introduction of foreign DNA. *See* U.S. Pat. No. 5,185,440 to Davis et al., and PCT Publication WO 92/10578. The introduction of foreign DNA into eukaryotic cells has become a topic of increasing interest. It is well known that live, attenuated viral vaccines are among the most successful means of controlling viral disease. However, for some virus pathogens, immunization with a live virus strain may be either impractical or unsafe. One alternative strategy is the insertion of sequences encoding immunizing antigens of such agents into a vaccine strain of another virus. One such system utilizing a live VEE vector is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,505,947 to Johnston, et al. ~~our copending Patent Application Serial No. 08/250,445, filed 27 May 1994~~. Another such system is described by Hahn et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **89**:2679 (1992), wherein Sindbis virus constructs ~~which~~ express a truncated form of the influenza hemagglutinin protein. Unfortunately, relatively few such systems are currently available.

At page 5, line 27, to page 6, line 2:

Figure 3 is a graphical representation of the results obtained in inoculating mice with the VEE replicon/Lassa N infectious particles produced by a single-helper RNA system, at two different dosage units. The top graph **(Figure 3A)** represents results obtained with a low-dose inoculation with infectious particles. The bottom graph **(Figure 3B)** illustrates results obtained with a high-dose inoculation with infectious particles.

At page 6, lines 4-15:

The term "alphavirus" has its conventional meaning in the art, and includes the various species of alphaviruses such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE), Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus (VEE), Everglades virus, Mucambo virus, Pixuna virus, Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEE), Sindbis virus, South African Arbovirus No. 86, Semliki Forest virus, Middelburg virus, Chikungunya virus, O'nyong- nyong virus, Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Getah virus, Sagiyama virus, Bebaru virus, Mayaro virus, Una virus, Aura virus, Whataroa virus, Babanki virus, Kyzylagach virus, Highlands J virus, Fort Morgan virus, Ndumu virus, Buggy Creek virus, and any other virus classified by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) as an alphavirus. The preferred alphavirus RNA transcripts for use in the present invention include VEE, Sindbis virus, South African Arbovirus No. 86 and Semliki Forest virus.

At page 16, lines 6-21:

The VEE structural protein genes (C-PE2-6K-E1) were removed from a cDNA clone (pV4031) which contained two attenuating mutations (E2 lys 209, E1 thr 272), and a duplication of the 26S subgenomic RNA promoter sequence immediately downstream from the 3'-end of the E1 glycoprotein gene followed by a multiple cloning site as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,505,947 to Johnston et al. ~~copending Patent Application Serial No. 08/250,445, filed 27 May 1994~~. pV4031 plasmid DNA is digested to completion with ApaI restriction enzyme, which cuts the VEE genomic sequence at nucleotide 7505 (numbered from the 5'-end of the genome sequence). A second recognition site for this enzyme is found in the duplicate 26S subgenomic promoter. Therefore, digestion of pV4031 with ApaI produces two DNA fragments, one containing the VEE nonstructural genes and a single copy of the 26S subgenomic RNA promoter followed by a multiple cloning site, and a second smaller fragment containing a 26S subgenomic RNA promoter followed by the VEE structural genes. The large fragment is isolated and religated to produce the replicon, pVR2. **Figure 1** is a graphical representation of the pV4031 clone and pVR2 clone.

At page 28, in the middle of the page, in the paragraph following the header for Table 6 and before the tables at the bottom of the page:

Given 80 percentage given 100% packaging with the wild-type VEE capsid ~~capald~~ helper containing G152; D174; and S226, nt = not tested